Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-057
Friday
26 March 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-057 26 March 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

ISESCO Director Criticizes Western Media Attacks *[IRNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Leave for Washington for Talks *[Amman TV]* 1
'Urayqat Discusses al-Husayni U.S. Visit, Damascus Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Officials Call On U.S. To Resume Dialogue With PLO *[MENA]* 2
PLO Leadership Meeting in April To Decide on Peace Talks *[MAP]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi Hopes To Hear Israeli Proposal on Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Bethlehem Mayor on Peace Talks, Intifadah *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Al-Husayni Meets With U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia *[WAKH]* 4
FRC Gunmen Raid Fatah-'Arafat Official's House; 1 Injured *[Beirut Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Extremist' Killed in Clash With Security Forces in Abu Tij *[MENA]* 5
Curfew on Abu Tij After 'Antigovernment Demonstration' *[AFP]* 5

Sudan

Official Applauds U.S. 'Peace Efforts' *[SUNA]* 5
Fuel Shortages, Government Visits to Iran Reported *[MENA]* 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

Iranian Envoy, Communications Minister Discuss Ties *[IRNA]* 6

Qatar

Amir Leaves Hospital After 'Reassuring' Medical Tests *[WAKH]* 6

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Addresses Armed Forces in Tabuk *[SPA]* 6

ISRAEL

Binyamin Netanyahu Elected Likud Chairman *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Calls For Unity *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Poll Shows Support for Likud Surpassing Labor *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Mar]* 8
Rabin Urges All Citizens To Fight Terrorism *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 8
Peres Calls For Negotiated Withdrawal From Gaza *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 8
Peres Says Talks To Resume With All Sides *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
Russian Official on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9

'Sources' Report Arab, Israeli Stands on Talks *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Mar]* 9
Butrus-Ghali Comments on Deportees, Peace Talks *[HADASHOT 26 Mar]* 10
Security Situation Prompts Baraq To Cancel Trip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
REFA'EL Signs $100-Million Missile Deal *[HADASHOT 26 Mar]* 12

JORDAN

Abu-Jabir Receives Russian Envoy, Kozyrev Message *[Amman TV]* 13
Foreign Minister Meets With PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh *[Sanaa VOP]* 13

LEBANON

Israeli Forces on Alert to Possible 'Glider Attack' *[Beirut Radio]* 14
Birri Against Rocket Attacks on Occupied Areas *[VOM]* 14
Israel's Lubrani Urges Fadlallah To Help Solve Problems *[Voice of the South]* 14
President Clinton Accused of Favoring Israel *[AL-SAFIR 17 Ma]* 14
Foreign Minister Comments on Attending Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 15
Congolese Foreign Minister on Official Visit 15
Confers With Counterpart *[VOL]* 15
Meets President, Deputy Prime Minister *[RFL]* 15
Hizballah Releases Kidnapped Man to Red Cross *[Voice of the South]* 15
Expatriates Criticized for 'Split' in People *[AL-DIYAR 17 Mar]* 15

SYRIA

Ambassador Denies 'Secret Deals' With Israel on Golan *[MENA]* 18
Lebanese Foreign Minister, al-Shar' Discuss Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 18
Deportees, Israeli Policy, Peace Process Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 18

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Refugees Minister on Number of Refugees Waiting To Return *[IRNA]* 20
Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Names Council Representative *[Tehran Radio]* 20

Bangladesh

Fresh Influx of Rohingya Refugees Reported *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 20 Mar]* 20
Bureaucracy Blamed for Lack of Foreign Investment *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 19 Mar]* 20

India

Minister Views Pakistan's Role in Bombay Blasts *[Delhi Radio]* 21
Rao Says Bombay Blasts Will Not Hamper Liberalization *[Delhi TV]* 21
'Large Quantity' of Explosives Seized in Bombay *[Delhi Radio]* 21
Seven 'Militants' Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 21
Fire Reported at DMK Conference Venue in Tamil Nadu *[Delhi Radio]* 21
Change in Western Attitude on NPT Assessed *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 10 Mar]* 22
DPRK Vice President Begins 3-Day Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 23
Asian Development Bank Approves $147 Million Loan *[Delhi Radio]* 23

Iran

Friday Prayers: Jannati on Western 'Propaganda' *[Tehran Radio]* 23
Warns of 'Terrorists' Inside Country *[AFP]* 23
Khamene'i: Zionists' 'Dark Day' Yet To Come *[Tehran TV]* 24
DPK Pledges 'Solidarity' With 'Oppressed Baluchi People' *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 25

Pakistan

Five Killed, 40 Injured in Bahawalpur Grenade Attack *[Islamabad Radio]* 26
Minister Says Economic Reforms 'Yielding Results' *[Islamabad Radio]* 26

Sri Lanka

Ways To Balance Trade With India Suggested *[DAILY NEWS 13 Mar]* 26

Islamic Affairs

ISESCO Director Criticizes Western Media Attacks

LD2203160193 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA—An Islamic organization has condemned the "tendentious information attacks launched by the Western media and their attempts to level accusations against Islam, its civilization and followers."

Director general of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) in a statement faxed to IRNA, also blasted all types of terrorism, extremism and violence.

Addressing the international community, the ISESCO chief Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Uthman al-Tewaijri regretted that "extremist and terrorist acts" were perpetrated by some Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Hinduist groups against Muslims in several parts of the world, which he said "they never ascribe to the religion of their perpetrators."

He stressed that Islam cannot be judged on the basis of the conduct of some of its followers, but rather in the light of the texts of the holy Koran, the prophetic tradition and the consensus of imams.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Leave for Washington for Talks

JN2503175693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Nimr Mijhim al-'Adwan report from Amman]

[Text] In reply to the invitation extended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to a number of Palestinian personalities that are taking part in the peace negotiations to discuss ways of advancing the peace process and the obstacles facing the Palestinian participation in the forthcoming round of negotiations, a Palestinian delegation left Queen Alia Airport today for Washington. The delegation is made up of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian negotiating delegation; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the delegation; and three members of the Palestinian delegation.

Upon her arrival from the occupied territories across King Husayn Bridge, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that this visit wi'l be held to discuss the substantial unsettled issues between the Palestinian delegation and the United states.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We have agreement that this invitation must be comprehensive in the way that the meetings deal with the substantial unsettled issues between us and the United States, and the obstacles preventing the Palestinian delegation from participating in the negotiating process. On this basis, we will discuss the six points and other bilateral issues, particularly the deportee issues. We will then discuss the objectives of the negotiating process, its terms of reference, and the Palestinian position and demands. [end recording]

Dr. 'Ashrawi stressed that the expected meeting with the U.S. secretary of state is considered a real test of the intentions of the new U.S. Administration concerning the way it deals with the issues that obstruct the participation of the Palestinian delegation in the ninth round, due to be held on 20 April.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We feel that there has been an injustice done to the Palestinian side, and that there are Israeli attempts to employ pressure and not to commit itself to the requisites and objectives of this process, particularly in light of the escalating Israeli practices in the occupied territories, and its continuous and escalating human-rights violations. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni said the invitation has been crystallized following the letter the U.S. Administration sent to him, which includes reassurance from the U.S. side that there is a possibility of overcoming the obstacles and realizing progress in the negotiations.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] They feel that there is a possibility of regression, and that this process needs some talks, therefore, they invited us to visit Washington to discuss the method and the requisites for holding a ninth round. [end recording]

'Urayqat Discusses al-Husayni U.S. Visit, Damascus Meeting

JN2503114793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi in the "With the Midday Events" feature—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The meeting today between a number of Palestinian delegation members and the director general of the Indian Foreign Ministry, currently on a visit to the country, falls within the context of diplomatic moves in the region on the eve of the resumption of peace talks in Washington. Regarding what happened during that meeting, [member of the Palestinian negotiating team] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said:

"We presented a full and detailed explanation to the guest on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. We also presented to him a detailed explanation of the Palestinian position on the peace process. We underlined the Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process. The Indian guest, the director general of the Indian Foreign Ministry, stressed to us India's firm stand calling for a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution on the basis of international legitimacy. He offered scholarships and seminars for Palestinians in the occupied territories. In general, it was a positive meeting."

Meanwhile, a delegation of Palestinian figures left for Amman this morning. The delegation, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, will leave for Washington to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tomorrow. Regarding the importance of the visit at this particular time, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said:

"A delegation led by brother Faysal al-Husayni left for Washington today. Indeed, the invitation was extended some time ago, but the U.S. party had asked that only the peace process and its details be discussed. Our position was that any discussion must be comprehensive and conducted on the basis of the six points [presented by Secretary Christopher to the Palestinians during his recent Middle East tour]. The day before yesterday, the U.S. Administration accepted the Palestinian request, and, consequently, the Palestinian delegation left. From the start, we have been in constant dialogue with the U.S. side and we have asserted our commitment to the peace process. We, however, have told them that there are obstacles which we cannot ignore. We hope this meeting will provide a serious attempt to overcome these obstacles so that we can resume the peace process. This meeting will be very important indeed, especially since it will take place only hours before the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Damascus, and this meeting will have an impact on the Damascus meeting."

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and Dr Sa'ib 'Urayqat will leave tomorrow morning for Damascus to attend the meeting of foreign ministers from Arab states involved in the bilateral talks. Concerning what he expects from that meeting, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat added:

"We will leave for Damascus tomorrow to join the Palestinian delegation taking part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab parties involved in the peace process, as well as the Egyptian foreign minister. We hope decisions from the Damascus meeting will help unify the Arab position. We have no doubt that all the Arab states are (?concerned) about the peace process, because the Arab states realize that international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions are the basis for the peace process. Consequently, we will, God willing, reach a unified position and there will be a united Arab position."

Officials Call On U.S. To Resume Dialogue With PLO

NC2603111593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Two Palestinian officials have stressed that the resumption of the Palestinian dialogue with Britain and Belgium constitutes pressure on the United States to resume its dialogue with the PLO.

PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said that the European countries are playing a positive role in the Middle East peace process. He added that the European stand is committed to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and to the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative. He said that this shows that the European stand is in line with international legitimacy.

In a statement to MENA, al-Surani said that the United States does not want Europe to have any role in solving the Middle East problem. He added: We believe that this positive European stand constitutes pressure on the United States to resume the dialogue with the PLO in the latter's capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council secretary general, said the resumption of the Palestinian dialogue with Britain and Belgium indicates that the European countries believe the PLO is serious in its endeavors to establish peace in the region and confirms that the PLO represents the Palestinian people. He said that resumption of the dialogue with Britain and Belgium is evidence that Europe is moving towards playing a greater role in the peace process.

He expressed hope that the United States will become convinced of the need to resume the dialogue with the PLO to give impetus to the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

PLO Leadership Meeting in April To Decide on Peace Talks

LD2503233593 Rabat MAP in English 131 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, Mar. 25 (MAP)—The Palestinian leadership will hold a plenary meeting next month to be attended by representatives of all PLO affiliated factions, national personalities and members of the PLO Executive Committee, reliable Palestinian sources said.

Tunisian daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM quoted the sources as saying the meeting will decide on whether Palestinians will attend the bilateral peace-talks scheduled in Washington early next month.

The sources added that the Palestinian leadership was hoping the plenary meeting would come up with appropriate answers to many issues including participation in the next round of the Middle East peace talks and ways to support the Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories.

'Abd-al-Shafi Hopes To Hear Israeli Proposal on Peace Talks

TA2503115393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] The head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks with Israel, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, says the Palestinians are hoping for an Israeli proposal that will enable them to return to the Washington talks. Another

member of the Palestinian team, Zakariya al-Agha, warned that the Palestinian rejectionists to the peace talks could prevail if the situation does not improve. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi says the Palestinian team traveling to the United States is hoping to hear that Israel has made proposals to enable the peace talks to resume next month in Washington:

['Abd-al-Shafi] The quest of this delegation is actually going to continue the discussions that were started with Mr. Christopher when he visited the area, because much remained unexplained as far as we are concerned, our demands for going back to the negotiating table. So we are in a state of waiting, and I wanted to emphasize that as we make these conditions to go to the peace table, let nobody be under the impression that we have abandoned our serious and principled commitment to the principle of peace.

[Ze'ev] But another member of the Palestinian negotiating team, Zakariya al-Agha, said more Palestinians are getting killed now by Israeli soldiers than in the beginning of the intifadah, and if that does not stop, the Palestinian rejectionists will have the final say:

[Al-Agha] I think if it continues, the people's frustration and the people's opposition to the peace process will prevail.

[Ze'ev] 'Abd-al-Shafi denied the militant Red Eagle Palestinian group was behind the shooting on his entourage in Gaza a week ago. On talk of an Israeli unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Gaza does not have special status, and the Palestinians want the complete resolution to the crisis. [end recording]

Bethlehem Mayor on Peace Talks, Intifadah

NC2603082593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Furayj, in Bethlehem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us start our dialogue with this question: Where are the escalation in the occupied territories and the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive practices going to lead to?

[Furayj] The situation in the occupied territories, especially the Gaza Strip, is worsening daily and the security measures are harsh. Citizens are being harassed more and more every day and their living conditions are becoming worse. The Israeli special forces and the regular forces are firing indiscriminately. For example, four Palestinians were killed in Khan Yunus yesterday, including two children. Does the soldier not differentiate between a child and a man? Why are the incidents escalating in the occupied territories? The reason is the Palestinians' rejection of the Israeli occupation. We are trying to convince the Israeli people that we, the Palestinians, reject the occupation in all its forms and support peaceful coexistence and peace based on justice between the Palestinian people and the Israeli people and government. The settlers in Gaza Strip and the West Bank are provoking the Palestinians. If Israel really wants peace, then it has to accept the principle of complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories as stipulated in Security Council Resolution 242.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Furayj, let me pick through your remarks on Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. There is talk now about a proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip. Observers have differed over this question, but the majority of them say such a step, if taken by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, would aim to back the Palestinians into a corner and confuse them. How would you assess such a step if taken by the Israeli Government?

[Furayj] First, I want to warn everyone of Israel's trap. The claim that they will withdraw from the Gaza Strip while staying put in the West Bank is Israel's trap. We want Israel to withdraw simultaneously from all the occupied Arab territories; that is, from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We as Palestinians are ready to take control and manage the affairs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because we have the expertise and the scientific, political, and management qualifications. If we look, for example, at the Arab municipalities in the occupied territories, we find that they are efficiently serving the citizens. I warn of Israel's utterance: We want to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. The Israelis want to make the world believe that they will withdraw; that is, withdraw from 364 square kms, which is the area of the Gaza Strip, but keep the 5,000 square kms of the West Bank.

We are negotiating with Israel in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242, which covers the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and holy Jerusalem. Everyone should know that Jerusalem is the heart of Palestine and is sacred for all religions. There will be no solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem, which Israel occupied in June 1967.

[Al-Jundi] The Palestinian people are required to operate in the foreign and domestic spheres in unison. Negotiations with the Israeli side should be in complete harmony with the armed intifadah against the occupation forces. How can integration and coordination between Palestinian action abroad and at the local level be achieved?

[Furayj] In the foreign sphere, we support the peace process, its continuation, and negotiations with Israel to find a just and comprehensive peaceful solution. It is our right to resist the occupation through legitimate means. This is what happened between the Viet Cong and the United States in Vietnam in the early 1970s. This is a legitimate right. We are living under occupation, which

we do not want. We want peace and are ready to negotiate. Negotiations do not mean capitulation.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Furayj, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and its deterioration have forced Rabin to cut his U.S. visit short and return to Israel. In statements he made at an Israeli cabinet meeting, Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal noted that violence will continue as long as Israel insists on ruling 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza against their will. Since there is at least a theoretical conviction among the Israelis that they should withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza, and since violence will continue as long as there is occupation, why does Rabin not yield to the peace movements' pressure and that of some Israeli ministers?

[Furayj] Shahal's statements represent the view of a large section of Israeli citizens. The Israelis are divided, however. Rabin's policy on withdrawal is vague. From the time the negotiations began in Madrid and up to now, the Israeli negotiator has not shown any willingness to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination or to recognize withdrawal. They are negotiating with us over autonomy with limited authority; that is, negotiating about handing over authority to Palestinian representatives. This offer is totally rejected.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Mayor, the Rabin government's talk about withdrawal has become somewhat clearer. Rabin has spoken about Israel withdrawing from the occupied Golan Heights and also about withdrawing to secure areas. There now is talk about withdrawing from the Gaza Strip. The specific question is: What does Rabin want from all this talk at a time when the deportees crisis is threatening the resumption of the ninth round of peace talks on 20 April?

[Furayj] First, I want to clarify an important point. Israel is demanding secure borders. We the Arabs—the Syrians, Jordanians, Lebanese, and Palestinians—are demanding, and have the right to demand, secure borders. Secure borders are not Israel's monopoly alone, but are urgently needed by both sides. Therefore, the concept of secure borders means security for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians, too. Israel's security should not be at expense of the Arab territories.

Second, the deportations were unjust and unfair. It is my view that all the deportees are innocent until they are proven guilty in a court. Not a single one of them has been tried or charged. Why the deportations, then? The deportees should be returned as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 799. We are strongly committed to this resolution and call on the UN secretary general, whom I respect, to work persistently to implement it.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you, Mr. Ilyas Furayj, mayor of Bethlehem.

[Furayj] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Meets With U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia

JN2503173293 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, March 25 (GNA)—A ranking Palestinian official has said that a meeting was held in Tunis last Monday [22 March] between Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israel peace talks and the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia John McCarthy.

Mahmud 'Abbas, codenamed Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee made clear in a statement carried by the Tunisian al-Sabah newspaper published here today that he handed the U.S. ambassador a message addressed to the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher which the Palestinian leadership had discussed before delivery.

Abu-Mazin said the message came in reply to a message Christopher addressed to al-Husayni inviting him to visit Washington for talks before March 28. But he declined to reveal the content of the message.

Replying to a question by the same newspaper whether such meeting heralds an imminent return of the direct Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy here said, "I don't think so" and made clear that al-Husayni had earlier met in Jerusalem, Amman and Washington with a number of senior American officials including former President George Bush and the present Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The direct Palestinian-U.S. dialogue which started in Tunis in December 1988 was suspended in May 1990 in the wake of a commando operation carried out in occupied Palestine.

FRC Gunmen Raid Fatah-'Arafat Official's House; 1 Injured

NC2503164693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Our correspondent for security affairs reports that gunmen from Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] raided the house of Fatah-'Arafat official Muhammad Khalid 'Abdallah in the al-Buss camp [in southern Lebanon] this afternoon. 'Abdallah's brother, Khalid, confronted the attackers and was injured and taken to the hospital. Yesterday afternoon, gunmen riding in a car in the al-Sit Nafisah neighborhood in Sidon fired at Palestinians 'Isam Hammud and 'Isam Za'rurah, injuring them. Security sources attribute the operations to liquidations between 'Arafat and RFC loyalists.

Egypt

'Extremist' Killed in Clash With Security Forces in Abu Tij

NC2503144493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, 25 Mar (MENA)—Extremist 'Abd-al-Rahim Hasan 'Ali, nicknamed Shadid al-Qaffas, was killed in a clash between security forces and extremist groups in Abu Tij today. Al-Qaffas is considered to be one of the most dangerous members of the extremist groups.

The automatic rifle with which al-Qaffas resisted the security forces sent to capture him was seized. Before he was killed, the extremist injured Ramadan Ahmad Bakr in the leg and Muhammad Abu-al- Nu'man 'Abd al-Salam throughout the body. The two were taken to Asyut University Hospital. Security forces surrounded the scene of the clashes and are searching for the rest of the extremists. The Abu Tij prosecution office was notified of the clash so it could begin investigations.

Curfew on Abu Tij After 'Antigovernment Demonstration'

NC2503203893 Paris AFP in English 1958 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, March 25 (AFP) - Security forces slapped a curfew Thursday on the southern Egyptian region of Abu Tij, near Asyut, after a Muslim militant's funeral turned into an anti-government demonstration.

More than 9,000 sympathisers of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], a militant Islamic group, gathered for the funeral procession of Abd-al-Rahim Hasan, 25, who was killed in a dawn clash during which two policemen were seriously wounded.

Police opened fire to disperse the protest and made 50 arrests, but there were no casualties. "We must end the ruling regime," and "Islam will come whatever the price," chanted the demonstrators.

The clash broke out in Abu Tij when security forces launched a search operation for militant suspects.

Around 130 people have been killed, including 60 militants, in a year of fundamentalist violence.

Sudan

Official Applauds U.S. 'Peace Efforts'

EA2503213493 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA)—Mr. Fadl Abu-Qusaysah, the secretary general of the Peace and Development Foundation, has announced that the U.S. Congress supports the peace efforts and the creation of a conducive climate for the Abuja negotiations, saying that the African Affairs Committee of the Congress has decided not to make any move likely to confuse the peace process. Abu-Qusaysah said in an interview for AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that the American stance was responsible and represented an opportunity for broad discussions with various American institutions, adding that the government was keen to promote peace following the Addis Ababa, Abuja I, Nairobi, and Entebbe talks.

The secretary general of the Foundation said the relief operations were implemented by the Sudanese Government out of a purely humanitarian principle and it had authorized Operation Lifeline five years ago as an unprecedented experiment.

The secretary general of the Foundation also said that the United States had expressed readiness to send experts on federal administration to transmit the American experience in the administrative, financial, and legal fields.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Abu-Qusaysah was a member of the delegation which visited Washington recently and met the U.S. Congress.

Fuel Shortages, Government Visits to Iran Reported

NC2603081393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Beirut [as received], 26 Mar (MENA)—The Sudanese Government is suffering from fuel shortages and a lack of funds to import gasoline and diesel oil for civilian use and to operate power stations and bakeries.

Informed Sudanese political sources say the government recently turned to Iran for help, asking it to provide Sudan with fuel. A number of Sudanese envoys visited Iran for this purpose, including Dr. Ahmad 'Awad al-Jaz [name as received], minister of state for presidential affairs.

The Iranian Government responded positively, on the condition that a third country act as a guarantor. Sudan informed Iran of Iraq's readiness to act as the guarantor, however. Iran said the guarantor should be a European country. The sources said negotiations reached a deadlock and Sudan received nothing.

Oman

Iranian Envoy, Communications Minister Discuss Ties

LD2203120293 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA—Ways of expanding Tehran-Muscat bilateral relations were discussed by the Islamic Republic Ambassador to Oman Mohammad 'Ali 'Arab and Omani Minister of Communications Salim Bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali on Sunday [21 March].

'Arab at the meeting held in Muscat, briefed al-Ghazali on latest developments in bilateral economic-trade cooperation.

Al-Ghazali expressed satisfaction with the trend of Iran-Oman cooperation and hailed as "positive" reduction of port tariffs on Iranian ships carrying goods to his country, which, he hoped would upgrade bilateral eco-trade ties.

Qatar

Amir Leaves Hospital After 'Reassuring' Medical Tests

JN2603061793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Doha, 26 Mar (WAKH)—It was announced here today that His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, left Hamad General Hospital at 0700 today after undergoing some general medical tests. A statement issued by the Amiri Court, broadcast by Radio Doha this morning, said that the results of the test were good and reassuring.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Addresses Armed Forces in Tabuk

LD2503200193 Riyadh SPA in English 1935 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, March 25, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, attended a ceremony, which was organised this afternoon by the command of the North-western Province on the occasion of his visit to the province. In an address at the ceremony, Prince Sultan conveyed greetings of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who is the supreme commander of the Saudi Armed Forces and the crown prince on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr.

Prince Sultan praised the role of the armed forces for their honorable mission as they are from a land, which has been touched by feet of Prophet Muhammad (may God's peace be upon him) and his companions. "The Armed Forces are capable of managing the latest weapons and technology. I do witness, day after day, in you, the nobility, pride, discipline and continuing practical training and working knowledge," he said.

For his part, the commander of the North-western Province, in a speech on the occasion, greeted the Saudi monarch and the crown prince. He said he was delegated by members of the Saudi Armed Forces stationed in Somalia, to greet Prince Sultan on the auspicious occasion of 'Id al-Fitr and affirmed that they are enjoying good health and performing their humanitarian mission in a fine manner in the light of directives of the Saudi defence and aviation minister.

The commander reiterated the loyalty of the armed forces under the flag of Islam and affirmed that they would put up the optimal level of efforts in their training and mission. He expressed admiration for the concern shown by Prince Sultan to participate along with his sons (the armed forces) in all their activities, which reflect his love and faithfulness.

Prince Sultan, then, moved to the headquarters of the command's exercise center at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz military city, where he declared the opening of the center. The ceremony was attended by Prince Fahd Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Tabuk Province, princes, senior armed forces' officers and officials from the province. Prince Sultan arrived in Tabuk from Jeddah earlier today, at the start of a tour during which he will meet personnel of the armed forces and convey to them greetings of King Fahd and the crown prince on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr.

Binyamin Netanyahu Elected Likud Chairman

TA2503145293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Binyamin Netanyahu has trounced his opponents and was elected Likud chairman by a majority of 52.1 percent. David Levi received 26.3 percent; Beni Begin, 15.1 percent; and Moshe Qatzav, 6.5 percent. The chairwoman of the committee supervising the elections, Judge Hana Evenor, said that the committee still has to check the results, but she has the feeling that these are the final results.

Binyamin Netanyahu announced that he will make a statement in another hour. Knesset Member [MK] David Levi said after the results became known that the majority of registered voters got what they wanted. He reiterated that he will not participate in any leadership team Netanyahu sets up. He said he would not congratulate the winner after all the false charges Netanyahu leveled against him, as that would simply be a farcical, cosmetic touch, that would be completely out of place.

MK Levi said that he would continue to be active within the Likud despite the presence of this or that individual. Replying to a question regarding the Likud's candidate for prime minister in three years, Levi said that a lot of water would pass under the bridge before 1996.

MK Beni Begin congratulated Binyamin Netanyahu on his victory. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Begin stressed that he would continue to be fully active within the movement and that all the Likud needs now is a period of stability.

MK Moshe Qatzav said that he would help the elected chairman to the best of his ability. Qatzav believes that Netanyahu will be facing a tough job, because the Likud is undergoing a crisis. Qatzav expressed the hope that Netanyahu will be wise and courageous enough to rehabilitate the Likud.

Yitzhaq Shamir, outgoing Likud chairman, congratulated Binyamin Netanyahu. Shamir believes that the Likud will overcome the difficulties that arose during the election race.

Calls For Unity

TA2503191293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1603 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Victory speech by Binyamin Netanyahu to supporters after being elected Likud chairman, at Kefar Hamakabiyya in Ramat Gan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I view our return to this country as part of the Jewish struggle for independence. I see one important thing, a rediscovery, a rebuilding of the Jewish power to resist. The significance of our return to this region from 100 diasporas, from 100 countries, is to get back our power to defend ourselves. Before the Jewish people returned to this country they were slaughtered, murdered, defenseless, and hopeless, a people that ran away and was frightened, a people that constantly withdrew.

When we came back here we regained not only our sovereignty, but also the very ability to oppose those who want to get rid of us. That is an integral part of the rise of Zionism and Jewish independence. That was an integral part of all the governments of Israel—Alignment and Likud—until eight months ago. There has been an erosion in Jewish defense and Jewish ability to challenge, an unprecedented erosion. There has been a tremendous weakening in internal security.

This situation, I believe, can only be compared to that which existed here prior to the establishment of the Jewish state, during the struggle for independence. I believe there is a reason for that. It is the ideological failure of this government, which has pulled back from the idea of standing firm, because it says that we cannot fight the knifings, we cannot fight terrorism, or as they say: terrorism has only one solution, political. In other words, there is no solution to terrorism besides withdrawal. Once again withdrawal.

I want to tell you, that is not why we returned to this country. We did not return in order to flee once again. We did not return in order to withdraw. I believe, and I know that you believe, that we can fight terrorism, that we can uproot terrorism, that we can get rid of this plague. We know how to do it, and we will do it. If they do not know what to do, they should move aside and let those who know do the job. [applause]

The very same idea guides this government in the political sphere. If I had to put in a single word the idea that guides this government in the conduct of the fateful negotiations that will decide our future, our very existence, it is yield, yield, yield, because they believe—again in complete contrast to our entire tradition and what brought us here—that through concessions they will return security to the State of Israel. It is as though a series of concessions that will shrink the borders and bring the Syrian Army closer to us on the Golan Heights, that will shrink and reduce the size of this state and bring the border here to the outskirts of Petah Tiqva, will give us and the coming generations security. The withdrawal from Zionism, from the idea of standing firm, from our independence, calls for one thing, changing this government as quickly as possible.

I view our role as one of returning to this people its spirit, to give it new hope, to give it faith in the future, to return its formidable strength, which has been taken away from it. For that purpose, we will have to operate quickly in three main areas, which I know we will all unite behind.

First, we will increase the public struggle against the withdrawal on the Golan Heights and against the collapse of internal security. [applause] Second, we will act to organize immediately a single front with the other

opposition parties so that there will be a fighting opposition in the Knesset against the government's moves. [applause] Third, we will prepare by parliamentary and other means to bring down this government as quickly as possible, hold new elections, and return to the people. [applause]

I believe that these elections—and I do not think it is far off, or impossible, or beyond our abilities—will be held prior to 1996. This government is not an impregnable wall, it is full of cracks, contradictions, and crises. I view our aim as bringing about elections as quickly as possible and presenting the people with two alternatives, this time without any camouflage, without any cover up, as they did in the last elections. We will present the people with two paths, their way and ours, and I am sure the people will know what to chose. I have no doubt about it. [applause] However, in order to advance those aims we must start at home, we must rehabilitate our home turf, strengthen the foundations, expand them, and strengthen the pillars. We must provide a single roof to cover all, and leave a wide opening through which everyone can enter. We will build the institutions, we will repay the debts. [passage omitted]

I call on the other contenders, my colleagues in the movement leadership—David Levi, Beni Begin, Moshe Qatzav—to put aside our differences. What is behind us is much less important than what is facing us. Likud voters understand that. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Support for Likud Surpassing Labor

TA2603092393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] A poll by the Dahaf Institute, under the direction of Dr. Mina Tzemah, indicates that the right wing enjoys a majority and that support for Labor has dropped. The question posed was: Were Knesset elections held today, for which party would you vote? (The data are presented in Knesset seats, compared with the results of the 13th Knesset elections)

	Mar 93	13th Knesset
Labor	37	44
Likud	39	32
Meretz	11	12
Tzomet	9	8
National Religious Party	6	6
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	6	6
Arab factions	5	5
United Torah Jewry	4	4
Moledet	3	3

The poll was conducted via telephone on 24 March and included a representative sample of 603 interviewees. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Comments: 1. The poll was conducted and analyzed before the results of the Likud primaries were made known. 2. It is significant to note the symmetry between Labor's decline and the Likud's rise by seven seats. There were no significant changes in any of the other parties.

Rabin Urges All Citizens To Fight Terrorism

TA2503174593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, today called on all Israeli residents—both Jewish and Arab—to act to stop terrorism and to join hands to reach peace in the region. Rabin was speaking to leaders of the Muslim community on the eve of 'Id al-Fitr. Army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Speaking before dozens of leaders of Israel's Muslim community, Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that the present government had vastly increased the development budgets and resources allocated to the Arab sector. The prime minister noted that one of his goals was a swift narrowing of the gap between the Jewish and Arab sectors.

[Rabin] Despite the difficulties and the obstacles, the government is determined to follow the path it set and to bring our country the peace it so yearns for, while safeguarding Israel's security and the safety of its citizens. I call on all Israeli residents—Arabs and Jews—who seek peace to join hands and hearts in a joint effort to reach peace and prevent unnecessary deaths and casualties.

[Semrik] Incidentally, Rabin has so far refused to comment on the election of Binyamin Netanyahu as Likud chairman. [end recording]

Peres Calls For Negotiated Withdrawal From Gaza

TA2503170793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today called for a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. He asserted that the Gaza Strip should not be brought into Tel Aviv or vice versa. Peres said that the residents of the Strip should be permitted to run their own lives by themselves. Our correspondent Uri Binder reports:

[Begin recording] [Binder] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called for a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. However, he noted, this should be done through negotiations and without leaving scorched earth behind. Sitting in the guest tent of Shaykh Khalil Salman Abu-Rabi', Minister Peres today said:

[Peres] [words indistinct] however, we have no intention of remaining in the Gaza Strip, nor to create a mess there. No, no, there will be no breaking of heads. They are people there just like us. If Israel is responsible, it is responsible not only for security but also for the residents. We do not want famine or chaos in the Gaza Strip. We do not want it to turn into another Lebanon. We are not savages; we are serious and responsible people. We will sit down with the residents of the Gaza Strip and find a way to let them manage their own affairs, not us. We will find a way to create employment for them so that hunger will not lead them to extremism.

[Binder] Commenting on the deportee affair, Peres rejected the linkage created by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. The foreign minister complained that the Palestinian leaders refused to speak out against terrorism but protested the measures later used to combat the violence. [end recording]

Peres Says Talks To Resume With All Sides

TA2503160093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes the peace talks will be renewed in Washington in about a month with the participation of all the sides. He told the director of the Middle East desk at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is visiting here, that Israel will accept the demand to cease deportations only if the Palestinians announce a total cessation of terrorism. The foreign minister made the remarks to our correspondent Nisim Qeynan during a visit to the Bedouin encampment of Rahat in the Negev on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr.

Russian Official on Talks

TA2603053793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Russia believes the parties to the Middle East conflict must renew peace talks without any connection to the issue of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. This was stated by Viktor Posuvalyuk, visiting head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department, in a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Posuvalyuk said Moscow views the problem of the deportees as an isolated episode.

'Sources' Report Arab, Israeli Stands on Talks

TA2603084893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 93 p 6

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] The U.S. "peace team's" meeting with the Palestinian delegation in Washington today will launch the "Arab stage" of the Clinton administration's efforts to renew the peace process.

After coordinating positions with Rabin and receiving from him a promise to soften Israel's positions on controversial issues, President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher will attempt to reach a similar result with the Arabs over the next few weeks.

Over the next few weeks and up to the beginning of the next round of bilateral talks, slated to start on 20 April, we will witness an attempt at a U.S. mediation effort aimed at reviving the peace process and ensuring that substantial progress is made in the next round.

Senior Israeli sources in Washington believe that the Palestinians have already secretly reached a decision to attend the next round of talks. In preparatory talks over the next few weeks, however, they will try to wring maximum concessions from the United States and Israel in four areas:

— Concessions and gestures on the deportee issue (returning them home earlier than planned, as well as an Israeli and American declaration that there will be no more deportations).

— Israeli concessions on the issues of the Palestinian representation at the talks and Jerusalem (an Israeli agreement that Palestinians from the diaspora will attend the talks, as well as an agreement on discussing the status of Jerusalem within the framework of the self-government).

— An Israeli agreement on introducing changes in the autonomy plan on the basis of the Palestinians' demands.

— Israeli gestures that will ease the pressure of the security forces on the inhabitants of the territories. This is what the Palestinians and the Americans are calling "steps relating to human rights" in the territories.

On the other hand, it is still unclear what the Syrians intend to demand or to propose within the framework of the preparatory talks. It is still unclear how, if at all, President al-Asad intends to participate in these talks.

The steps taken by Syria on this issue will indicate the extent to which it is willing to evince flexibility.

In order to prevent an erosion in the U.S. positions and unrealistic expectations on the part of the Arabs, the Israeli sources yesterday clarified Israel's positions and its red lines:

— Israel does not prefer negotiations along any one track over the other. Israel will not delay progress with the Palestinians in order to reach an arrangement with the Syrians and vice versa.

— Israel opposes the introduction of any changes to the rules stipulated by the Madrid conference, whether on the issue of the Palestinian representation or that of Jerusalem. Israel has explained to the Americans that it, too, is not altogether satisfied with the Madrid

rules, but any changes would only delay the negotiations for a long time, a thing which Israel opposes at this point.

— Israel agrees to some form of U.S. mediation, including raising compromise proposals both during the preparatory talks and even after the negotiations commence, but only on condition that this is done on the working groups level. At this point, Israel is against the active involvement of the U.S. President or even the secretary of state in the negotiations themselves.

With regard to the Palestinians, Israel has set the following principles:

— Israel is willing to make gestures on the deportee issue, including declarations on refraining from deportations and on returning the deportees before the end of this year; however, it will do so only after the Palestinians return to the peace talks and commence with the practical negotiations. Another condition stipulated is that these gestures will not include dramatic, spectacular steps.

— Israel is willing to ease conditions in the territories, but only after the wave of stabbings is stopped.

— Israel is willing to introduce changes in the self-government plan it submitted in accordance with the demands posed by the Palestinians in the areas of land, the powers of the administrative council, the judiciary, etcetera.

— Israel agrees to the Americans issuing statements on deportations, Jerusalem, and the connection between the Palestinian self-government and the permanent arrangement in the territories in order to satisfy the Palestinians.

As for Syria, Israel wants to achieve progress on two issues:

— Israel does not want the negotiations in the next round of talks to continue from where they ended in the last round—that is, in pointless bickering over Clause 5 in the Syrian proposal. This clause talks about peace in exchange for territories and security arrangements. During the last round of talks, Israel demanded a detailed definition of the essence of peace, whereas the Syrians demanded to know how far Israel is willing to withdraw. This time Israel wants to start negotiations on some practical issue which could be concluded already in the next round of talks.

— Instead of a futile argument over documents, Israel wants to receive proof that the Syrian president really means peace—this, by means of public statements he will make to his people on his desire for peace, including clarifications as to what he means. Israel, in exchange, will agree to reveal its own cards.

Israel believes that as soon as progress is made with the Palestinians and the Syrians, it will be possible to make progress on the Jordanian and Lebanese tracks as well.

Butrus-Ghali Comments on Deportees, Peace Talks

TA2603114993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HADASHOT HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 26 Mar 93 pp 14, 15

[Interview with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali by Beni Avni at UN Headquarters in New York on 18 March]

[Excerpts] [Avni] Mr. Butrus-Ghali, can you please sum up the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportee affair, from your point of view?

[Butrus-Ghali] There was a Security Council resolution to dispatch an envoy to the region. I sent not just one delegation but three. When they returned, I reported to the Security Council that they were unsuccessful and that several steps had to be taken. The Council convened, deliberated, and resolved not to act. On my part, the mission was completed. I must act in accordance with Council resolutions. Our main concern now is not to become an obstacle to the peace process; the peace process is very important. Let us wait for 20 April, when the peace talks are due to reconvene.

[Avni] Israel has the impression that the UN position on the affair has been unbalanced. It was said that you rushed to act on the deportee issue while not taking any action on similar disputes in India or Egypt.

[Butrus-Ghali] The United Nations reached a decision on the deportee issue and called on me to act. The United Nations reached a decision on Bosnia, and my action is based on that resolution. It also reached a decision on Somalia and Rwanda. There has been no resolution, however, on the issue you raised: Kashmir.

[Avni] What about Egypt? The police killed 12 fundamentalists there today.

[Butrus-Ghali] There has been no resolution on that matter. We act in accordance with resolutions.

[Avni] In your report on the deportees, you spoke about "double standards" in quite a different context, suggesting that the United Nations is slower to act on Israel than on other issues.

[Butrus-Ghali] There were other nuances there. What I said was that the danger of a double standard exists, because public opinion in the Middle East says that certain action was taken against Iraq and against Libya, but when it was decided to convene the Council in Geneva (on the territories), nothing was done. I had to point that out. [passage omitted]

[Avni] Would you like the United Nations in general and the secretary general in particular to have a larger role in the Middle East peace process?

[Butrus-Ghali] Yes. I brought that up when I was elected, even prior to my election, with your previous prime minister. I said I was pleased that Israel has agreed to the United Nations being a full partner in the multilateral

talks. Several minutes ago your prime minister said he is pleased that the United Nations has a bigger role to play. I will do everything possible to take that into account.

[Avni] When you say "to take that into account," do you also consider the possibility of dispatching UN observers to the territories?

[Butrus-Ghali] That is not on the agenda at present, but sending an observer, just like we do in South Africa, would be an interesting scenario. Resolution 681 mentions that, but without the agreement of the Israeli Government, it would not be practical.

[Avni] How would you evaluate the Israeli Government's cooperation with the United Nations?

[Butrus-Ghali] The prime minister is politically interested in it. We spoke several minutes ago about the desire to reach a solution. For our part, we are doing our best to expand that cooperation.

[Avni] Is it possible that your report on the deportee issue hurt Israel's trust in the United Nations?

[Butrus-Ghali] That is an academic question, because the report has already been issued. We are prepared to do anything necessary to strengthen the ties between Israel and the United Nations, and that was the message I sent the prime minister when he won the elections. I congratulated him and relayed that message to him.

[Avni] In the final analysis, the solution to the deportee issue was reached between Jerusalem and Washington. What do you think about that?

[Butrus-Ghali] It is a wait-and-see situation. Our main interest now is the peace process. I will be able to give you an answer after 20 April.

[Avni] In other words, if the process resumes.

[Butrus-Ghali] Yes. If the meeting takes place, we will definitely be able to say that it is an acceptable solution.

[Avni] The cosponsors of the peace talks are the United States and Russia. Would you prefer the United Nations to have been one of the sponsors of the bilateral track?

[Butrus-Ghali] The United Nations never had pretensions of having a monopoly on peaceful solutions to conflicts. If conflicts can be resolved outside the UN framework, that is fine. The two main forces in the world (the United States and Russia) are learning to cooperate within the UN framework. The only time they cooperated outside the UN framework was at the Madrid conference. Again, we are not pushing to taking part. On the contrary, we encourage regional cooperation to resolve problems. We are flooded with problems.

[Avni] If you could, would you not push the United Nations into the process?

[Butrus-Ghali] No, but if we are called on, we will be prepared. (looks at the UN Charter) Chapter 1, Clause 4 says: "To be a center for harmony between nations." It says "a center" and not "the center." It is not the sole center.

[Avni] The Peace Agenda (a pamphlet Butrus-Ghali published several months ago) has aroused a great deal of interest. You came under fire for the proposal you raised there to dispatch a UN Army.

[Butrus-Ghali] I wrote about it in the latest edition of FOREIGN AFFAIRS. I explained that our aim is not to have an army but to have certain contingents from the armies of the member states, all the states, assigned to us. Nothing will change. The difference is that instead of sending peacekeeping forces after three months of tough deliberations, we will be able to send them within two or three days.

[Avni] The Israel Army is considered quite successful. Do you think it can participate in such a framework?

[Butrus-Ghali] If the Israeli Government offers it, we will have to study the proposal.

[Avni] You took part in the first peace agreement signed between Israel and an Arab state. In your view, is that a successful model for other regional peace accords?

[Butrus-Ghali] Each situation has its specific points. Things change with time. What was positive in 1977 might be different in 1993.

[Avni] On the Palestinian issue, for instance, the talk is similar to the autonomy ideas agreed on at Camp David. Do you think it can work?

[Butrus-Ghali] My answer is, we will see after 20 April.

[Avni] To conclude, I must ask you about Ron Arad and the other Israeli MIA's.

[Butrus-Ghali] We are working on that very seriously, but we prefer not to discuss it because the best results are achieved through quiet diplomacy. I appointed a special envoy, Banon Savon [name as published] of Cyprus, and he will visit the region soon. I have just presented him to Prime Minister Rabin.

[Avni] A British newspaper reported recently that an agreement had already been achieved on the MIA's but was abrogated at the last minute because of the Hamas deportees.

[Butrus-Ghali] I know nothing about that.

Security Situation Prompts Baraq To Cancel Trip

TA2603054093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, has canceled his planned trip to Japan and other East Asian countries. He made the decision after a consultation with the prime minister. The chief of staff said he believed it was inappropriate for him to be away

from Israel now, in light of the security situation. Lt. Gen. Barak is the first Israeli chief of staff to be invited to Japan, and this is the second time he has postponed his trip.

REFA'EL Signs $100-Million Missile Deal

TA2603121993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 93 p 30

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Text] REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] has signed a deal to provide advanced air-to-air missiles to a foreign state to the tune of $100 million. The deal will last four years.

REFA'EL is competing for a British air-to-surface missile tender worth about $1 billion, as well as other international tenders. The signed deal is the outcome of an intensive marketing effort by the authority in the wake of the completion of the development of several special projects the defense establishment has approved for export while maintaining certain restrictions.

At the Paris air show, the authority will exhibit for the first time an advanced night vision system for fighter aircraft called "Lightning." Opgal and El-Op are participating in the development of the system.

A senior REFA'EL source said that the export potential of the new systems which have been authorized for sale to foreign customers is over $1 billion.

Abu-Jabir Receives Russian Envoy, Kozyrev Message

JN2203210393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir conferred with visiting head of the Africa and Middle East Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, Dr. Posuvalyuk.

The Russian official conveyed to Dr. Abu-Jabir a message from his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev on the Middle East peace process. The letter also deals with efforts by the cosponsors of the peace talks, Russia and the United States, to get the talks back on track. The Russian envoy is on a tour of the region.

Foreign Minister Meets With PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN2203205093 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1806 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Talks were held in the Jordanian capital of Amman yesterday between a Palestinian delegation comprising brothers PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

The conferees reviewed the recent developments and contacts pertaining to the deportees on both the Arab and international scenes. They also discussed the preparations currently under way for the forthcoming Damascus meeting, which will bring together the five Arab parties engaged in the peace process.

The talks also dealt with the ferocious onslaught being perpetrated against our people in the occupied homeland, particularly the atrocities being carried out in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Forces on Alert to Possible 'Glider Attack'

NC2503165393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Security sources in Tyre said today that Israel placed its forces on alert last night to confront a possible glider attack. The sources added that Israeli combat aircraft, helicopters, gunboats, and troops fired more than 150 flares to light the western sector of the occupied border strip. A member of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon said: Last night the light produced by the flares was strong enough that I could read my newspaper.

Sources said Israel received information that fighters might try to infiltrate it from Lebanon using gilders.

A Palestinian fedayeen flew over the Lebanese-Israeli border in a glider to which he had attached an engine on 25 November 1987 and killed seven Israeli troops in northern occupied Palestine. The fedayeen, a member of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, was shot and killed during the operation.

Birri Against Rocket Attacks on Occupied Areas

NC2503133593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri received Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, a PLO delegation led by Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, and other official, party, and popular delegations, who came to offer their good wishes on 'Id al-Fitr, at his house in al-Musaylih today. [passage omitted]

Birri told popular delegations from the villages and townships of the al-Nabatiyah area that are adjacent to the border strip that everyone has the right to resist the occupation, but that it is forbidden to fire rockets from the liberated area at the occupied area because this practice helps Israel, not Lebanon. He explained that firing rockets from inside the occupied villages and making a show of force there does not constitute proper resistance practice.

Birri added: We want the resistance to pursue the methods we used, and by which we succeeded, in repulsing Israel. Resistance fighters must employ explosive devices, ambushes, and direct attacks against the positions of the occupation forces until the last Israeli is driven from Lebanon.

Israel's Lubrani Urges Fadlallah To Help Solve Problems

NC2503170193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Uri Lubrani, Israeli Government coordinator of Lebanese affairs, has affirmed that the key to the solution of the Lebanese detainees lies with the party that holds Israeli airman Ron Arad and the South Lebanese Army detainees. Lubrani was reacting to a statement made yesterday by 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah on 'Id al-Fitr. Lubrani added that Shaykh Fadlallah knows very well who this party is. He expressed his confidence that a comprehensive solution can be achieved on this issue and the problem of the Lebanese detainees in al-Khiyam prison and in Israel if that same party agrees to hold serious and genuine negotiations. Lubrani urged Fadlallah to use his religious and moral influence to solve this humanitarian problem.

President Clinton Accused of Favoring Israel

NC2503191393 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 11

[Article by Sati' Nur-al-Din: "The First Coup Communique"]

[Text] Washington does not traditionally witness a political coup d'etat with every new president, turning the page on the past and opening a new chapter. American history has recorded only a few exceptional cases in which the president has entered the White House like an officer from the Third World coming to power in a tank.

What happened yesterday in the American capital is almost like a coup or so it would seem to the Middle East, which has been shaken violently by recent world changes. The Middle East paid dear before realizing that it has settled into this wretched state where the Americans have taken over the running of all its political and economic affairs.

The stability the Americans referred to after the Gulf war in particular, included, apart from putting an end to the Arabs as a political bloc, cutting Israel's role to size. At that time, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, Israel seemed to have lost one of the most important justifications for keeping it as a regional superpower with imperial designs extending from the ocean to the Gulf.

Former U.S. President George Bush addressed Israel based on the understanding that it is part of the region with strong, vital relations with the United States, but not that it is the center of the region or an equal partner in it. Bush meant that Israel is committed to the role Washington defines for it, whether in times of war or peace and even if the need arises to overthrow the government in Israel.

But yesterday, in his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, current President Bill Clinton shattered this concept and restored relations with Israel to their status before the end of the cold war. He assumed that the Israelis remain threatened by strategic dangers. He also believes that their role is still focal in defending the region and managing its resources.

What Clinton said to Rabin yesterday might have surprised the Israelis as much as it stunned their Arab neighbors, especially since he presented their country as

a center of the universe and an example to be emulated, and especially if the others want to approach Washington and gain its sympathies and blessings, or if they do not always want to remain its enemies.

Noteworthy is that Clinton, in referring to the Arabs and Israelis, used old cliches about strategic partnership, democracy, and freedom, something that was particularly prevalent when Ronald Reagan was the U.S. President. He forgot that these issues are no longer so acute for the Israelis, who have discovered the limits of their regional powers, or for the Arabs, who no longer wish to fight except under U.S. command.

This is, quite literally, a coup. Yesterday, it released its first communique. Tomorrow, other communiques will follow announcing that Washington has again decided to preserve Israel as an imperial project that defines its own allies and enemies in a Middle East where democracy and peace prevail the Israeli way and where Clinton accepts no risk.

Foreign Minister Comments on Attending Talks

NC2603124993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has disclosed that the two letters which he received recently from the U.S. secretary of state and the Russian foreign minister contain an official invitation to Lebanon to attend the ninth session of the bilateral peace talks in Washington at the end of April.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY today, Buwayz said the peace talks need a climate of confidence, a positive atmosphere, and dialogue. If not, the upcoming session will lack substance and will be as useless as the previous sessions.

Buwayz affirmed Lebanon's adherence to Arab solidarity and the unity of the stand of the Arab parties participating in the talks. He said Lebanon's participation in the ninth round of talks hinges on the outcome of the upcoming Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus. He said there is no Arab decision yet on whether to participate in the talks. Everything depends on the outcome of the upcoming Damascus meeting and will become clear after the views of the Palestinian side are taken into consideration.

Buwayz said the U.S. secretary of state has given fresh momentum to the peace process. He disclosed that the participating parties have received diplomatic letters encouraging them to make a correct and final decision.

Regarding the political stalemate in the region connected to the failure to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 799, Buwayz said there is general indifference towards the peace process which has surfaced since the start of the U.S. presidential elections. He stressed, however, that Resolution 425 will be on the agenda of the Lebanese-Israeli talks. Regarding Resolution 799, Buwayz said all parties are agreed on the need to return all the deportees to their homes as soon as possible.

Congolese Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Confers With Counterpart

NC2503182493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] The first round of talks between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his Congolese counterpart has ended. Leaving the Foreign Ministry, the visitor said that bilateral ties and coordination on the level of the United Nations and other organizations were discussed.

Buwayz said the talks dealt with economic relations and some aspects of Arab-African coordination, be it on the level of the United Nations and its organizations or on the level of the Arab League and the OAU. He said the talks also dealt with the situation of the Lebanese in Congo. A second round of talks will be held at the Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

Today's talks began at 1830. The Congolese foreign minister arrived in Beirut at 1745 today on a two-day official visit. He will meet President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr tomorrow. He will discuss with senior Lebanese officials ways to strengthen relations between Lebanon and Congo, especially in the economic field. There is a significant Lebanese community in Congo, playing an effective role in its economy.

Meets President, Deputy Prime Minister

NC2603103893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Congolese Foreign Minister Benjamin Bounkoulou continues his talks with Lebanese officials. Following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning, Bounkoulou visited Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr.

Hizballah Releases Kidnapped Man to Red Cross

NC2603150093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Hizballah Security Committee today handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Ba'labakk prisoner Ilyas al-Asmar and the remains of Dr. Naji Kan'an, who were kidnapped on the Jazzin road more than two years ago. The Lebanese Red Cross is expected to receive the body and to transport it to Jazzin.

Expatriates Criticized for 'Split' in People

NC2603133293 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 2

[Muwaffaq Madani article: "The Expatriates..One Lebanon or Two?]

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri addressed a repeated appeal, through Radio Canada, to Lebanese citizens residing abroad, especially to the Christians, to return to Lebanon to contribute to its reconstruction. This appeal is in harmony with the wish that was first expressed by President al-Hirawi that Lebanese expatriates, especially those who emigrated because of the recent war, would return. One important fact that has not yet been discussed nationally is that the Lebanese war divided the Lebanese people into two parts—those who stood fast by remaining in their country, and the expatriates who deal with their country from afar on the screens of financial markets!

This split has always characterized Lebanon, which is a country that exports its sons abroad as its only commodity because it lacks the bases of stability, the lack of local opportunities, and the lack of social and political justice.

The main reason, we believe, for the emigration and uprooting of the Lebanese is the lack of confidence in the political system, which does not provide the opportunity for development that would absorb the requirements of all the people.

Let us admit that the political system in Lebanon has not provided all the Lebanese with political, economic, and social safety based on the sharing of one homeland, one identity, and one destiny.

The doors of sectarianism and political partnership have been slammed in the face of various Lebanese generations, depriving them of the means for development and progress. Thus, they have found no better way to improve their lot than to emigrate.

Whatever good this emigration may have brought to the expatriates themselves, it has been undermined by the tricks of the World Lebanese Cultural League, which has reexported the feeling of unease from abroad to Lebanon. The officials in charge of this league are exporting their problems as raw materials, not having made any changes in mentality, perception, or approach. This indicates that they still think with the mentality of the country and society that collapsed during the war.

We, the resident Lebanese, want to know why our expatriate sons are still absorbed in the sectarian and political problems that are the outcome of the war and the period that preceded it, ignoring the fact that the war in Lebanon is over and that we are trying to erase its effects.

We would have preferred it if the prime minister's address to the Lebanese expatriates had noted that the expatriates are divided and that we, the resident Lebanese, are united. The expatriates export to us only crises and feelings of indifference, while the resident Lebanese are trying to bypass the past and build a new Lebanon.

We know that the secret obstacle standing in the way of foreign aid to Lebanon can be summed up in what a Lebanese ambassador abroad said about the Ottawa Conference of the multilateral states interested in a settlement of the Middle East problem. The conference decided that states cannot reconstruct a country whose expatriates own over $5 billion. A Canadian mission frankly told this truth to former Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, when he asked for Canadian help in rebuilding the infrastuture. The Canadians answered: Why don't your rich expatriates participate in this reconstruction?

While U.S. banking sources have said that several Gulf families have transferred their private funds from foreign countries to Lebanon to invest in it, we are sending appeal after appeal to the Lebanese to return to their homeland and to contribute toward its reconstruction. We have had no response from the expatriates except the divisive response prevailing in the World Lebanese Cultural League, whose officials speak with a sectarian and militia mentality instead of serving their compatriots and homeland.

It is as if the expatriates need Lebanon as a state and a government only when they face difficulties, are subjected to aggressions, or are mistreated, and in such case we, the residents, jump to their rescue. But what have they done so far to improve conditions in their homeland and for their agonized compatriots? And when al-Hariri's government gives the expatriates prominent attention by initiating a Ministry for Expatriate Affairs, we find a lack of support for this ministry on the part of the expatriates who are becoming nearly isolated, paralyzed, and worthless.

The painful irony is that the Lebanese residents are called upon to care for the expatriates' affairs, despite the absence of any initiatives by the expatriates toward the grinding crises experienced by the Lebanese residents. Not only this, but the fact is the Lebanese expatriates are the ones who are depicting a gloomy picture and are trying to distort the general atmosphere by their rejection of the formula for peace. The majority of the expatriates are against the Third Republic [reference to post-al-Ta'if era]. They even obstruct its work and affairs abroad and block other countries' initiatives to contribute to the reconstruction of the country, not to mention that they do not have an alternative plan of action that they could offer to their small country. The formulas they are offering all belong to the pre-peace era; that is, ones that are based on the givens of the war or reflect the allegations of the war symbols, which rejected and continue to reject all the merits of peace and development that the resident Lebanese have endorsed and are working to achieve.

The Lebanese abroad are giving the residents the impression that they have their own Lebanon and we have ours. But we are the victims of the war and the ones who are paying the price; generations that have sacrificed their lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing and stood fast to restore amity, democracy, and freedom to Lebanon and free it of occupation in the south. In the meantime, we are also required to endure enormous burdens to rebuild Lebanon and prepare it for the future. Here we ask: Why don't our expatriates share the responsibility with us? Do

they want us, when we finish rebuilding Lebanon for them, to receive them as tourists or as expatriates who deal with their homeland and their compatriots as a matter of profits and losses. It is as if Lebanon has become two rival, if not distant, countries: A resident Lebanon which is paying the price of war, and an expatriate Lebanon that settled the question of the war by going away and failing to join the residents in footing the bill. Most of the expatriates left the country as if their homeland were merely a suitcase. They deal with it from abroad as if it were a stock exchange.

It is a major national crisis that we cannot ignore, because it will grow bigger and bigger. It grieves us residents whenever we hear a Lebanese official inviting the expatriates to return home, because either we have a single identity and a single country or we are two Lebanons. The residents cannot be mere victims both in war and at peace, ones who have to persevere for the sake of Lebanon and at the same time pay their dues in rebuilding the country so that the expatriates may return as tourists or to gain major profits from it. While we are waging the battle of rebuilding Lebanon, with all the difficulties and high cost it entails, it is unreasonable for the expatriates to export their factional crises and splits at a time when we are working to remove the effects of war. Proof of this is evident in the division of the cultural university and in the language used by its figures, which is a language of war and division.

Ambassador Denies 'Secret Deals' With Israel on Golan

NC2603073193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0652 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish has categorically denied that there are any secret deals between Syria and Israel on the return of the Golan Heights. He said so far we have not received anything positive from Israel indicating that there will be a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

In an interview published today in the newspaper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM [The World Today], the ambassador said Syria does not accept anything less than full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He added that there are no differences between Syria and the PLO on the peace strategy, stressing that there are constant consultations between the two sides.

The ambassador explained that the Arab boycott of Israel is a potent, peaceful weapon, indicating that according to official statistics, the boycott has cost Israel $50 billion.

Lebanese Foreign Minister, al-Shar' Discuss Talks

JN2403190193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz telephoned Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today. During the telephone conversation, the two sides discussed recent developments and Arab and international contacts concerning the peace talks in preparation for the meeting which will be held by the foreign ministers of countries concerned with the peace process in Damascus on Sunday, 28 March.

Buwayz and al-Shar' also exchanged views on the letters sent by the United States and Russia to the Arab states concerned with the peace talks two days ago in order to adopt a stand that responds to the invitation to take part in the ninth round of talks.

Moreover, the Lebanese foreign minister briefed al-Shar' on the Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon during the past hours and their reflection on the climate surrounding preparations for the peace talks.

Deportees, Israeli Policy, Peace Process Viewed

JN2503162193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] It will not be in harmony with Israel's character and will absolutely conflict with its trends and plans if a single day should pass without Israel committing aggressions against the Arabs. Yesterday, people were martyred by the bullets of the treacherous occupation forces in the occupied territories. Zionist aircraft also raided southern Lebanese areas, inflicting heavy casualties and losses. It was aggression for the sake of aggression, and terrorism for the sake of terrorism. After all these criminal acts, Israel wants to convince the Arabs that it loves peace and seeks a just settlement in the Middle East.

Since 1948, the Israeli rulers have been crying for peace and seeking help from the international community to convince the Arabs to sit with them at the negotiating table. These rulers' claims about peace have always been coupled with savage attacks on Arab cities, townships, and villages, which often led to terrible massacres and Security Council condemnations. The Israeli rulers used to justify such massacres as being a preemptive defense and claimed that the Arabs were responsible for all that happened because they refused to achieve peace.

Although the Arabs were aware that aggression is a deep-rooted characteristic of Israel and is an indivisible part of its structure, they responded favorably to the first serious U.S. endeavor based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and participated in the Madrid conference, sent delegations to Washington for more than a year, and presented ideas and proposals, but they did not receive the least favorable response. The Israeli rulers are interested in expansion, the building of settlements, and the judaization of the territories occupied in 1967. They were even compelled to respond to the U.S. initiative, and harbored intentions designed to undermine it. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker can talk much about the suffering he experienced with the Israelis.

More than three months ago, Yitzhaq Rabin suddenly deported 400 Palestinians on the pretext of being the intifadah's backbone, saying that expelling them from their homeland will inevitably calm down the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Naturally, the situation did not calm down; instead, it flared up and gravely escalated. The occupied homeland witnessed very severe confrontations and extremely fierce Israeli crimes. Moreover, Israel refused to abide by Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate repatriation of the Palestinian deportees, and claimed that their return will jeopardize the Middle East peace process.

The international community was unanimous on the fact that the deportation process meant to deal a blow to the peace process. All world states appealed to the Israeli rulers to rescind this rude, inhuman measure and respond favorably to that UN resolution. Nevertheless, these rulers turned a deaf ear, and leaked information yesterday that they may take some initiative in favor of the deportees if the Palestinians take part in the Washington talks scheduled for 20 April. The question posed is: Why this beating around the bush? Why do the Israeli rulers not abide by this Security Council resolution and end a tragedy that rocked the whole world if they really care for peace? At least, why do they not commit themselves to a total halt to the deportation policy? Why do they not stop the killings, oppression, destruction, and building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories? Why do they raid southern Lebanon and insist on keeping

part of the Lebanese territory" is the Arab land available for seizure according to their whims and ambitions?

Peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East if there is no belief in it. The Israeli rulers' practices, aggressions, and violations totally conflict with the simplest peaceful intentions. These rulers know better than others that the Arabs seek a just and real peace, that peace and occupation cannot meet at all, and that there is no alternative to the recognition of the Palestinian rights and to returning the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon to their owners. Likewise, the Israeli rulers know well that their security pretexts cannot hold vis-a-vis realities, and that the only reason behind giving such pretexts is to justify expansion and continue the building of settlements.

Giving success to the Washington talks and achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region will totally depend on the Israeli rulers. The Arabs literally adhere to the Security Council resolutions. They have confirmed their readiness to respond favorably to all requirements of the peace process. Have the Israelis done so? The answer is no, because they want both peace and the Arab territories. It is impossible to have both peace and expansion. The path of peace is open to everyone who believes in the basic components and implications of peace. These are: Withrawal from all occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights. The Israeli rulers should choose between peace and occupation, taking into account that occupation has only brought disasters to them.

Afghanistan

Refugees Minister on Number of Refugees Waiting To Return

LD2503145593 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Kabul, March 25, IRNA—Some 300,000 Afghan refugee families in Pakistan are waiting to be allowed to return to their country, Afghan Minister of Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Rahmatollah Wahedyar, told IRNA here today.

He said out of six million Afghan refugees, two million, i.e., 200,000 from Iran and 1,800,000 from Pakistan have so far returned to their homeland.

During the clashes between the Afghan groups in Kabul over the past year 400,000 more Afghan people became homeless and took refuge in safe places in Afghanistan and across the border in Pakistan, Wahidyar said.

Noting that 70 percent of the refugees are not able to return to Afghanistan due to the current problems, he regretted that world humanitarian organizations despite their massive propaganda, have done nothing to facilitate the return home of Afghan refugees.

Wahedyar said a daily average of 6,000 Afghan refugees from Iran and 2,000 from Pakistan return home, and hoped that the number would increase after total peace in Afghanistan.

"What is certain is that Afghan refugees are keen to return to their country as quickly as possible," he said praising the role of the related commissions in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United Nations.

He also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its hospitality towards the Afghan refugees over the past 14 years.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Names Council Representative

LD2503172493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] appointed Ayatollah Mohaqqeq as its representative to that country's Supervisory Council. In an exclusive interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Kabul, Ayatollah Mohaqqeq said: The duties of the Council, whose establishment was approved at the Jalalabad session, include supervising the implementation of the Islamic principles and the Constitution and safeguarding the general interests of the people of Afghanistan. He added: When necessary, the Council can question or impeach the president, prime minister, and the cabinet ministers.

On the basis of the said report, nine prominent Afghan scholars, representing each of the nine parties, together with a number of that country's scientists, constitute the members of the Supreme Supervisory Council [Shura-ye 'Ali-ye Nezarat].

The said council will continue its work until elections are held and the Afghan Parliament is established.

Bangladesh

Fresh Influx of Rohingya Refugees Reported

BK2503121093 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 20 Mar 93 p 1

[By correspondent in Cox's Bazar]

[Text] Rohingya refugees have again started coming into Bangladesh from Burma through various points along the border at Teknaf. Over 100 refugees have fled the country and taken refuge in different refugee camps under the Naikhangchari police station in the last five days. Fifteen members of three families took shelter at Gumdum Refugee Camp last Wednesday. They disclosed that several thousand Rohingya refugees are waiting to come to Bangladesh. These refugees further add that people belonging to a foreign organization are luring them to come to Bangladesh. Two officials connected with the repatriation of refugees disclosed that some refugees entered Bangladesh in the past few days.

Bureaucracy Blamed for Lack of Foreign Investment

BK2503154593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 19 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial : "Foreign Investments"]

[Text] Newspapers have reported that the prime minister has issued directives at the review meeting of the Board of Investment held last Tuesday to take measures to attract foreign investors. This was the board's first meeting since the present government came to power. It is known to all that there is a dearth of capital in the country. Due to this, the pace of industrialization is slow. An acute unemployment problem also exists in the country. For this reason, there is a consensus that foreign investments should be encouraged. But it should be noted that this is not going to be possible by merely issuing directives. A favorable atmosphere should be created to attract foreign investors.

It is true that the government has adopted a liberal policy in this regard but it still exercises a lot of control over financial institutions. These institutions are under bureaucratic control. The executive vice president of the International Finance Corporation, Sir William Raire, told newsmen last month that there are no foreign investments in Bangladesh due to bureaucratic hurdles. In this connection, it may be mentioned that three American companies have decided to wind up last month as they have not obtained government clearance even after six years. Therefore, the government should

take necessary measures to attract foreign investments. It should ensure financial discipline and reduce bureaucratic control.

It is known to all that the law and order situation in Bangladesh is also not conducive for foreign investments. The investors do not feel encouraged due to frequent strikes, road blockades, and work stoppage in factories. Perhaps, for these reasons several big companies of Bangladesh including the Apex Tanneries and Beximco have invested in Pakistan and Vietnam. On the other hand, the mills and factories of these companies in Bangladesh are not being expanded. This delicate situation should be taken into consideration not only by the government but also by different quarters.

Owing to a lack of favorable atmosphere the total foreign investments in Bangladesh during 1985-1990 amounted to only about one crore dollar. In this period, the annual foreign investments in Sri Lanka was between two and a half to six crore dollars while in Pakistan it was between 10 to 17 crore dollars.

Statistics reveal that production expenses in Bangladesh have increased by 25 percent due to strikes, while frequent load shedding has raised production cost by another 50 percent. These are major factors for which our mills and factories are becoming losing concerns. Efforts should be made to overcome these barriers which impede the industrialization process. Government weakness in this regard will bring no good for the country. These problems should be positively removed. Of course, there are demerits to the democratic system but its merit is the strength of the people's support.

In the year 1965, the per capita income and export earnings of Bangladesh was almost equal to that of South Korea. But in the last 28 years South Korea has made tremendous progress. Even the situation of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore was not better than us 30 years back. Neither were they technologically more advanced. These countries have achieved success due to dedication, honesty, and hard work. Of course, foreign investments played a leading role behind their development. Observers feel that we should make an evaluation of the overall situation in the country and take necessary steps with a view to attracting foreign investors.

India

Minister Views Pakistan's Role in Bombay Blasts

BK2503162893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has stressed the need for intensification of political moves in Jammu and Kashmir to bring about peace in the valley. Speaking to newsmen in Bangalore today, the home minister said a conducive atmosphere should be created first so as to hold elections in the state.

Answering a question, Mr. Chavan said the role of Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence agency in the recent Bombay bomb blasts cannot be ruled out, but only an inquiry could confirm it.

Rao Says Bombay Blasts Will Not Hamper Liberalization

BK2603015893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister says that the recent blasts in Bombay will not hamper the on-going economic liberalization program of India. In an interview to a foreign television network today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said India, in fact, concluded a $5 billion refinery deal with Oman on the following day of bomb blasts. He said the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr. Satish Sharma, had gone to Oman on the day blasts took place in Bombay. The blasts did not make any difference whatsoever to the deal.

Mr. Narsimha Rao, however, agreed that the Bombay incidents might give a small setback to the new economic agenda of the country. He said the incidents might have affected the people who had not decided in case to invest in India.

'Large Quantity' of Explosives Seized in Bombay

BK2603125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Bombay police today seized a large quantity of deadly RDX explosives near a petrol pump at Mumra in Thane District. The seizure comes close on the heels of the recovery of a large cache of AK-56 rifles, 600 electric detonators, 195 hand grenades, and over 5,000 rounds of ammunition in the city on Tuesday last. The joint police commissioner, Mr. M.N. Singh, who is the chief investigating officer of the blasts, has rushed to the spot. Meanwhile, police have initiated the process to attach the properties of the Memon family, prime suspects in the blasts, under the provision of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act.

Seven 'Militants' Killed in Punjab

BK2603045893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] In Punjab, seven militants have been killed and five held in encounters with security forces. Five militants were killed in Jagraon area of Ludhiana District last night, while two militants were killed in Majitha area of Amritsar District early this morning.

Fire Reported at DMK Conference Venue in Tamil Nadu

BK2503151793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, a major fire broke out in the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] state-level conference

pandal [a make-shift shed] this evening at Coimbatore. The DMK had planned to organize a three-day conference from tomorrow, for it erected a pandal covering 10 lakh square feet. The state fire service officer told our Coimbatore correspondent that the fire broke out at 1300 in the afternoon in two places of the pandal. Immediately, 13 fire tenders were pressed into service and by about 1600, the fire was completely extinguished. Our correspondent, after visiting the site, reports that half of the pandal was completely gutted. Police said investigations are on to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Change in Western Attitude on NPT Assessed

BK2603013993 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 10 Mar 93 p 4

[Article by Ranjit Kumar]

[Text] In the past month, there has been a perceptible and significant change in the attitude of Western countries toward India on the question of signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. From the visit to India of the leaders of three major global powers in the past one month, the fact has come to light that now, India has only been requested to sign the NPT and it is not under any pressure in this regard. During their visits in the third and fourth weeks of January, British Prime Minister John Major and Russian President Boris Yeltsin gave special consideration to India's sensitivities on the NPT. During the third week of February, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl made a general statement that he is in favor of India signing the NPT. But, when asked at the 22 February news conference whether India's refusal to sign the NPT will affect the bilateral ties, he replied in the negative.

It is clear that Germany did not make India's signing of the NPT a priority issue. On the other hand, it only stressed the need for strengthening the cooperative relations between the two countries. As Chancellor Kohl is for strengthening bilateral ties even if India does not sign the NPT, it is clear that Kohl's suggestion to sign the NPT was only formal.

On the other hand, British Prime Minister John Major and Russian President Yeltsin did not even deem it fit to make a general statement calling upon India to sign the NPT. They even went to the extent of saying that they did not discuss the issue with the Indian leaders. John Major said he is aware of India's sensitivities on its defense. In this perspectice, the Russian president also took note of India's bias on the NPT.

The clear current stand of the three major countries on the NPT will provide adequate relief to the assessers of India's foreign policy. Two years ago, the U.S. pressure on India had considerably increased and to ease the pressue, India put forward the argument that it is concerned not only with Pakistan, but with its neighbor China's huge stockpile of nuclear arms that can threaten its security in future. Then, the United States made Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif put forward a proposal that the three concerned countries India, Pakistan, and China should hold talks with the two superpowers—the United States and Russia—on the issue.

As a confidence-building measure, India should not have raised any objection in principle to take part in the five-nation conference, but by participating in it, India would have fallen apart. At this conference, India could have been convinced that it should not feel any nuclear threat from the PRC and therefore if it signs the NPT, Pakistan would also follow suit.

In other words, Pakistan, which stealthily acquires nuclear materials and technology from the western countries, is not considered to be the real offender in the field of nuclear nonproliferation and therefore its insistence on signing the NPT only after being signed by India has been accepted. That is, India, which is keen in utilizing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, has to bow before international pressure to check Pakistan from advancing in this field.

In India, if nuclear power plants are being run for effective use of nuclear energy to achieve national development, it is natural that a considerable amount of nuclear material will accrue in the form of residual energy that can be used for making a nuclear bomb. This will definitely be the outcome of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful and developmental purposes. Based on this, western intelligence agencies say that India has acquired the capability of manufacturing 20 to 40 nuclear bombs.

But, on the other side, what about the PRC and Pakistan? The PRC launched its nuclear program directly to manufacture nuclear bombs only. It is clear from the fact that in PRC today, only one nuclear power plant is in operation, whereas in Pakistan not even a single nuclear power plant is working. Pakistan's Kahuta nuclear center is primarily to enrich uranium from where materials for a nuclear bomb are being mobilized. Probably, the Western countries have now understood the assistance rendered by the PRC, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea to Pakistan's nuclear program.

Possibly, the western countries have started realizing that even if India and Pakistan sign the NPT, it will not reduce the threat of a nuclear explosion in South Asia. Iraq had also signed the NPT, but did it not continue its clandestine program to manufacture nuclear bombs by hoodwinking the international inspection agencies? Had not the Gulf war broken out, it would not have been possible to destroy its secret nuclear bases. Likewise, won't it be possible for Pakistan to continue its nuclear program despite signing the NPT? If international intelligence agencies give a definite clue that Pakistan is also following the foot steps of Iraq in its nuclear program, will the United States be ready to take any step through the United Nations like the case of Iraq?

After the signing of NPT, India's nuclear program can be prevented from becoming weapons oriented, but there is no scope for any check on Pakistan. The reason is that

Pakistan's nuclear program is in the hands of the Army and its intelligence agency, the Inter-services Intelligence [ISI] whereas in the case of India it is in the hands of a civilian administration.

Although the United States has done a commendable job by taking steps like introducing the Pressler Amendment to check Pakistan from making advancements toward a nuclear arms program, even western countries do not believe that it bears a negative effect on Pakistan's nuclear program. Even though the United States has adopted an appreciable stand by taking a tough stance on Pakistan's nuclear weapon program in view of India's security concerns, probably the United States and the western countries have now started realizing about the consequences of totally suppressing India on the NPT issue, especially in the context of the profound clandestine coordination established among Pakistan, Iran, PRC, and South Korea in the field of nuclear technology. Possibly, the United States and the western countries have now started realizing that when they cannot stop Iran, Pakistan, the PRC, and South Korea in making advancements toward nuclear arms techniques, what benefit will they reap, if India is forcibly kept apart on this issue. As the proponents of the NPT will not like the countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and South Korea acquiring nuclear capability, their demand and insistence on all countries, including India, to sign the NPT will remain as an important part of their war strategy.

DPRK Vice President Begins 3-Day Visit

BK2603030693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The North Korean vice president, Mr. Yi Chong-ok, has arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India. During his stay in the capital, Mr. Yi will hold discussions with Indian leaders on bilateral issues.

Asian Development Bank Approves $147 Million Loan

BK2603080893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] The Asian Development Bank has approved the $147 million loan to India for energy conversation and environment projects. The minister of state for finance, Dr. Abrar Ahmed, informed the Lok Sabha that the loan will be used for financing 23 sub-projects of four oil refineries. Such projects are located in eight states, including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

Iran

Friday Prayers: Jannati on Western 'Propaganda'

LD2603112893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Today, on the first Friday of the new year, the glorious Friday prayers sermons were delivered throughout the country in the presence of masses of worshippers.

In Tehran's Friday prayers sermons, Ayatollah Jannati described the tragedy of the Serbian military aggression against the towns and residential areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina—which is either supported or ignored by Western governments—and the bestial massacre of the defenseless people of that country, as one of the greatest tragedies of this age. Expressing his gratitude to the Iranian people and a number of other nations for their assistance to the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he termed the current situation in that country, in light of the talks taking place under Western pressure, as very grave.

Remarking on the Zionist regime's latest crime concerning the expulsion of hundreds of Palestinian Muslims from their homes, Tehran's ad hoc Friday prayers leader described the exiled Palestinians' resistance and the correct stance of the Lebanese Government in not accepting them as factors conducive to causing the Zionist regime and America further disgrace.

Ayatollah Jannati linked the reason for the latest political propaganda and economic pressure by America and the West against the Islamic Republic of Iran largely to the Iranian people's revolutionary stance in terms of supporting the Muslim Palestinian people. He remarked: The issue here is not their attempts at helping Israel gain official recognition through the compromising talks, but the very issue of the Zionist aim to expand its rule from the Nile to the Euphrates; It is about the danger of the enemies' domination over the Muslims in the Middle East, and it is about oil. Therefore, there is no possibility of endorsing the compromising talks. He added: Without any doubt, the West will meet defeat and disgrace in this propaganda war—a dimension of which concerns the extraordinary lies stated in the European Parliament's resolution—just as ultimately, justice gained victory in the eight-year imposed war—despite all that mendacious propaganda—and the world recognized Iraq as the aggressor.

Concluding his prayers sermons, Ayatollah Jannati thanked the united and revolutionary Iranians for continuing to advance the objectives of the revolution and the country's reconstruction. He stressed the need for greater efforts by the officials to serve the people and to implement plans aimed at maintaining vigilance and people's presence in defending the revolution and in confronting the various conspiracies of the powers of arrogance.

Warns of 'Terrorists' Inside Country

NC2603132893 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 26 (afp) - A senior cleric warned Friday of possible opposition attacks in Iran, urging the people and security services to be on the alert.

"The enemies of the Islamic republic have planned the dispatch to Iran of terrorists from (opposition) movements which they manipulate," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said during a Muslim prayer meeting at Tehran University.

He did not name the groups allegedly involved but was apparently referring to the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq organization], the main opposition movement.

Although Jannati dismissed reports of insecurity in Iran, he said it was "necessary for the people and the security services to be very vigilant" to foil any future attacks.

His warning follows a surge of reports from opposition movements abroad of attacks on Iranian leaders, including President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iran has denied the reports, but Khamene'i has also not excluded the possibility of strikes. "If (the opposition movements) could, they would now launch new attacks in Iran," he said Wednesday.

He was speaking a week after former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, based in France, reported a bomb attack at Khamene'i's residence.

Khamene'i: Zionists' 'Dark Day' Yet To Come

LD2503180793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1520 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in Mashhad on 24 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Islamic Republic makes enemies because it prefers national interests to the interests of foreigners. It is obvious that when America, Europe, the hegemonic powers and the owners of the great multinational and international companies want to enter Iran, to do what they want and to benefit in every way that they can, the Islamic Republic stands against them. It does not allow them. It does not allow them to bully. It does not allow them to intervene. It does not allow their influence. It opposes their bullying. It opposes their bullying in all parts of the world. It stands, heroically, against the materialist powers of the world, with all its strength, its being and along side of the nation. And to world arrogance it clearly says: No. [crowd chants in support]

It is obvious that America is the enemy of such a system and that the bullies and the powers should be its enemies. We should be surprised if they were not the enemies.

Today over the issue of Palestine, they are making a deal with their usual show of force. A deal that is 100 percent against the Palestinian people. The meaning of the current Palestinian talks is that the Palestinians will no longer have any rights over the land of Palestine, which is their home. Someone is sitting in his house. A bully comes in, enters the house. First a room, then two, then more, then all the house, then the houseowner is pushed out. His belongings are put in the street. Then a small part of the family is allowed to live in a back room and under difficult conditions. The bully is now the new owner. It is obvious that the houseowner will protest. It is natural for him to knock on every door. It is natural for him to break the jaws of the usurper. It is natural for him to call on everyone for help; the international courts, this person and that, whoever he thinks might be of help. And when he cannot call on them for help, he should involve himself. With his fist, his strength, a stick, with whatever he might have. Should the owner of the house be blamed for the cause of his violence?

Today they ask the Palestinians: Why are you violent? Who is being violent? The Palestinian is the owner of the house. They have taken his house with force, with tricks, with the use of global power, with the use of support from the great powers. One day it was Britain and today is America. They have taken his house. And those who have come are from various countries. From Germany, Britain, Italy, Australia, Russia, from eastern countries and from the Arab countries. A group of people who belong to no nation and no homeland. They have gathered and usurped the home of the Palestinians. Does not the houseowner have the right to shout? Their men have died and passed away in the camps and in the back room that they were placed in. Now their children and their youth, with their awakened conscience and with inspiration from the general awakening of Muslims and the great Islamic revolution in Iran, are doing whatever they can. Today it is with stones. It is now with stones. But it will not remain so. The Palestinian struggle in the Palestinian lands is with stones today. It will not always be with stones. The dark day of the Zionists is yet to come.

Now the great powers have entered into negotiations. They have negotiated with the governments of the region, one by one. With threats, with bribes, through deceit, through corruption. They have forced their own protege elements. They first set up the Camp David affair. They are now enlarging the Camp David to engulf other countries. And everybody has more or less accepted. Some have accepted it fully, some have put a but and an if into it. But they are negotiating. What are the negotiations about? The negotiation is over the fact that all those who were fighting the occupiers of Palestine until now are now recognising the occupiers. What does this mean? It means that the struggle has ended. When the Zionists are recognized, the struggle will end. Everybody has accepted it.

Should we accept it too? Maybe others had to. Maybe others were afraid. Maybe they were bribed. Maybe their conscience was not awakened. Maybe they lacked the support needed to resist American wishes. Why should the Islamic Republic accept this? Why should the Iranian nation accept this? Whenever western and European powers negotiate with our officials, one of their first statements is this: Your opposition to negotiations with Israel is useless. America is sensitive about you because of your opposition. This is how enmity is created. They tell us: Do not oppose, let this great injustice take place and do not say a thing. But we are not sending troops and we are not sending soldiers. We are just stating our

position, as a free nation and an independent government. This is how an Islamic and independent free system as well as a combative nation which fears no power, makes enemies.

The Koran says: O awakened Muslim believers, do not forget the enemy. Do not forget that you have enemies. Do not forget that the enemy awaits in hiding. Do not forget that the enemy will strike if you are weak and fall short. The enemy wants to enter through any way possible. From the way of economy, culture, politics or security. The Muslim nation has to be awake. [passage omitted]

DPK Pledges 'Solidarity' With 'Oppressed Baluchi People'

NC2603075993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "The Baluchi People Fight Against Tyranny and Exploitation"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners. With each passing day of the clerical regime's rule, repression, poverty, misfortune, and tyranny are increasingly inflicted on the oppressed Baluchi people. In the past few months, the repressive forces of the regime have increased their onslaught in Baluchestan, ostensibly in the name of combating insurgents and drug smugglers. They have tracked down and arrested Baluchi combatants and freedom fighters with even greater intensity than before.

The police apparatus have stepped up their pressure on Baluchestan. The Tehran-based newspapers publish reports on operations by the regime's forces in these areas. But, as usual, these reports continue to conceal the truth. They make it appear as though a major part of the regime's armed forces are embroiled in a conflict with a few hundred insurgents and smugglers, who have disrupted the security of this region.

There are few people who have not realized the truth of the matter. The people of Kordestan are well aware that the freedom-seeking Baluchi people are defending their rights and freedom in a systematic and armed manner. Thus, they have created problems for the repressive clerical regime and have inflicted decisive blows on the regime. The ruling clerics profess to be sympathetic toward the Baluchi people, but they are merely shedding crocodile tears. In reality, they are emulating the policy of the shah's regime against the Baluchi people, but in a more merciless manner.

Today, more than 14 years after the victory of the Iranian revolution, Baluchestan is still suffering from deprivation, backwardness, and the perpetual oppression of its people. Under the guise of the reactionary theory of a united Islamic ummah, the clerical regime is seeking to destroy the national identity of the Baluchi people and to deprive their children of their heritage. Because the Baluchis follow a different creed than the ruling party, the clerical regime treats them with utter contempt and their religious sanctities with irreverence.

The people of Baluchestan are not only suppressed by the armed forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Basij, the gendarmerie, and other anti-popular forces of the regime, but they also have to deal with officials who know nothing about their culture, traditions, or customs, much less the wishes of the people of the region.

This is only a part of the oppression inflicted on the people of Baluchestan. The most conspicuous part of this national injustice is the utter deprivation in the financial, social, cultural, and health fields of Baluchestan. Baluchestan holds sizable economic potential in agriculture, subterranean resources, and animal husbandry. If the government would simply adopt a more human policy, it would be able to utilize all these resources for the eradication of penury and destitution in the region.

The regime's policy is basically antihuman. It is based on the increasing suppression of the nation, and the people encounter greater misfortune day by day. Thousands of workers from this region emigrate to other cities or the Persian Gulf emirates each year to eke out a meager existence.

The government may announce the allocation of some sum of money for development in Baluchestan, but a large part of this allocation is pocketed by the regime's echelons in this area and the remainder is used to set up military bases, checkpoints, and other projects to promote the regime's inhuman policies in the region.

Unemployment, high prices, and corruption combined with repression, strangulation, and intense nationwide oppression have made the lives of the Baluchi people a living hell. The Baluchi people are being crushed under the pressure of tyranny and extensive exploitation.

The people of Baluchestan hold the clerical regime responsible for this state of affairs. For this reason, along with all the other people of Iran, they are struggling against the clerical regime. This struggle has grown recently, and the resistance of the children of Baluchestan has assumed more extensive dimensions.

As the leaders of the liberation movement of Iranian Kordestan, in their struggle to topple the clerical regime and establish democracy and national rights, the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran considers itself the comrade-in-arms of the Baluchi people. With all their might, the DPK supports the rightful struggle of the Baluchi people. The DPK is prepared to assist the freedom-seeking movement of the Baluchi people, to intensify the struggle against the mullahs' regime as much as possible, and to rise up in cooperation and solidarity. Ultimately, we hope the liberation movements of the Iranian people will attain victory and terminate this tyranny.

Pakistan

Five Killed, 40 Injured in Bahawalpur Grenade Attack

BK2503153993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Five people were killed and 40 injured, three of them seriously, in an attack by unknown armed men on an 'Id al-Fitr festival congregation in Bahawalpur today. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, three persons on motorcycles allegedly threw a hand grenade and fired indiscriminately at the congregation when 'Id al-Fitr prayers were in progress at a local mosque, killing four people on the spot. One wounded child died of his injuries while on the way to the hospital. The 40 persons injured as a result of the explosion have been admitted to the Bahawalpur and the Combined Military Hospitals. The police have launched a massive hunt to arrest the culprits.

Minister Says Economic Reforms 'Yielding Results'

BK2503160593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz says the present government's economic reform policies have started yielding results and the country's total foreign exchange reserves have touched the $1.2 billion mark, which has helped the country maintain adequate foreign exchange reserves. In an interview published in the KHALEEJ TIMES, he said Pakistan is currently trying to reduce its dependence on foreign loans and to mobilize investments. The finance minister said the amount of private investment, which was $250 million in 1991, has doubled to $500 million in 1992. Pakistan's exports are increasing despite recessions all over the world and during the first seven months of the current fiscal year they registered a growth of about 12 percent, while imports increased by only 2 percent, leading to some improvement in the country's balance of payments situation. He expressed the hope that the privatization program will help the government reduce the debt burden, especially loans taken from the domestic financial institutions, and gradually eliminate the budget deficit.

Sri Lanka

Ways To Balance Trade With India Suggested

BK2503130393 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 13 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Balancing Trade With India"]

[Text] It was appropriate that Mr. Ronnie Goonatillake, the Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, should have raised the question of the growing imbalance in trade between Sri Lanka and India when the third meeting of the Indo-Lankan Joint Business Council was held in Colombo earlier this week. The balance of trade between the two countries last year was over Rs. [rupees] 11 billion in India's favour.

As we reported on Wednesday, the Secretary pointed out that the trade gap which stood at Rs. 3.9 billion in India's favour in 1991 had more than doubled to Rs. 8.5 billion a year later. During the first eleven months of 1992, for which figures were available, this had further widened to Rs. 11.2 billion. Mr. Nareshwar Dayal, India's new High Commissioner here, had told the meeting that India would try her best to narrow the trade gap.

Whenever two countries talk about their balance of trade, the country which has fared better promises to do its best to buy more from the trading partner. To say so is not to criticise India about the widening trade gap. She, like us, is a developing third world country pushing her own exports and striving to earn vital hard currency to sustain her import programme and invest in capital goods for development. She is aware of the advantages of increasing trading volumes both ways; and High Commissioner Dayal, no doubt, meant what he said when he promised that India would do its best to even the trade balance.

As was pointed out at the news conference held at the end of the meeting of the Business Council, opportunities of exporting more to India have arisen with the liberalisation process there which is gathering momentum. Joint ventures with buy-back arrangements will be a particularly good method of doing business with India. Several Indian businessmen have in recent years been examining the possibilities of investing here and it is essential that such ventures are encouraged.

South Indian investment here can be particularly useful in both an economic and political sense. Strong trading links help promote friendship for reasons of mutual profit among others. We must not forget that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was able to become the monster it is largely because of the support it enjoyed at one time in Tamil Nadu. The picture has now changed very much for the better, and although Prabhakaran is not altogether without support in South India, both the ruling Jayalalitha group in Madras as well as the Congress (I) are strongly anti-Tiger.

Non-exploitative and mutually beneficial trading and industrial arrangements can play a very positive role in discouraging the kind of political and other links the Tigers were able to forge in Tamil Nadu. Apart from that, there is much that we can gain as well as much that we can offer in a vigorous trading relationship with India.

The tea estates are one example. The Indian plantations are much more productive than ours with yields often exceeding twice our averages. When the management of our state-owned plantations were privatised in the middle of last year, the Indians were interested in bringing in the considerable expertise they have in this sphere. But there were fears in some quarters that Indian labour and Indian management may not be a wise combination. That being a politically sensitive factor,

the concerned authorities decided that the management companies must be controlled by Lankans but that they were free to buy expertise from abroad.

Some such Indian expertise is already deployed on our tea fields. Lankan planters have been visiting India and observing their practices. Labour productivity in India is higher than here and although it would be unwise to demand too much too soon from the workforce, it is essential that our workers too are gradually educated and persuaded to improve their performances. Higher productivity, after all, would mean better profits and 10 percent of the profits that will be made on the estates will be reserved for the workers.

Some of the liberal fiscal measures now being implemented in India are intended to attract the vast capital that expatriate Indians have amassed abroad. If Indian markets are opened to manufactures in countries like ours, it may be possible for us too to attract investments from Indians abroad. This is an area that deserves the attention of the Board of Investment (BOI) as well as the Ministry of Trade and Commerce. Preferential tariffs for products of Indo-Lankan joint ventures entering the Indian market will be one way of evening the trade balance.

Such arrangements can also help India to sell more to Sri Lanka. India's medium-tech industrial goods are of high quality and price competitive. Given the political will, there is much that can be done even in areas like tourism. There is a substantial Indian investment, after all, in the Taj Samudra in Colombo and Indians are managing the Lanka Oberoi. That should be an inducement for filling their rooms at least in the off-season with Indian tourists.